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Request for the inclusion of a supplementary item in the agenda of the seventy-third session

The situation in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine

Letter dated 17 August 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I have the honour to request the inclusion in the agenda of the seventy-third session of the General Assembly of a supplementary item entitled "The situation in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine".

In accordance with annex IV, paragraph 18, to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I request that the item be referred to the plenary Assembly for consideration.

In line with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum is attached hereto (see annex).

I have the further honour to request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Yuriy **Vitrenko**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Deputy Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations

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Annex

Explanatory memorandum

Since 20 February 2014 Ukraine — a founding member of the United Nations — has been facing foreign military aggression. As a result of this wrongful act parts of the sovereign territory of Ukraine (the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol as well as certain territories of Donetsk and Luhansk regions) remain under temporary foreign occupation in violation of the Charter of the United Nations.

The General Assembly, in its resolution 68/262 entitled "Territorial integrity of Ukraine", affirmed its commitment to the sovereignty, political independence, unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders and called upon all States to desist and refrain from actions aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine, including any attempts to modify Ukraine's borders through the threat or use of force or other unlawful means.

The General Assembly further called upon all States, international organizations and specialized agencies not to recognize any alteration of the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol and to refrain from any action or dealing that might be interpreted as recognizing any such altered status.

The General Assembly, in its resolution 71/205 entitled "Situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (Ukraine)", condemning the ongoing temporary occupation of this part of the territory of Ukraine and reaffirming the non-recognition of its annexation, inter alia, welcomed the reports of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on the human rights situation in Ukraine, in which it stated that violations and abuses of human rights continued to take place in the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine and pointed to the sharp deterioration of the overall human rights situation.

The General Assembly also urged the occupying Power to uphold all of its obligations under applicable international law.

Furthermore, in its resolution 72/190 entitled "Situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine", the General Assembly, supporting the commitment by Ukraine to adhere to international law in its efforts to put an end to the foreign occupation, condemned continuing violations, abuses, measures and practices of discrimination against the residents of the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine by the occupation authorities. The General Assembly also supported the efforts of Ukraine to maintain economic, financial, political, social, informational, cultural and other ties with its citizens in this territory.

In violation of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and other applicable norms of international law, as well as contrary to the above-mentioned resolutions of the General Assembly, the foreign military aggression against Ukraine and temporary occupation of parts of the territory of Ukraine persist, leading to the suffering of the people of Ukraine and undermining regional and international peace and security.

According to a conservative estimate by OHCHR, the number of conflict-related casualties in Ukraine currently stands at over 35,000, including more than 10,000 people killed and almost 25,000 injured. In the meantime, the number of internally displaced persons stands at well over 1.5 million.

The sheer scale and far-reaching repercussions of the conflict in and around Ukraine ever more persistently invite increased attention to it and its thorough, comprehensive, in-all-complexity (encompassing political, security, humanitarian,

social, human rights, gender and other dimensions) consideration by the entire United Nations membership.

Being the main deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations, the General Assembly is empowered by the Charter of the United Nations to discuss any questions relating to the maintenance of international peace and security brought before it by any Member of the United Nations.

It is high time for the General Assembly to uphold these responsibilities with respect to the situation of temporary occupation of parts of the territory of Ukraine. Close attention to this issue with its consideration by the General Assembly has to be consistently maintained until the violations committed as a result of foreign occupation of parts of the territory of Ukraine are duly dealt with and the territorial integrity of Ukraine is fully restored.